

HOUSE BILL 1211

By Baum

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 14, relative to criminal offenses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Addressee" means the person to whom a piece of mail is addressed;
- (2) "Curtilage" has the same meaning as defined in § 39-11-611; and
- (3) "Mail" means a letter, postal card, package, bag, or other sealed

article that:

- (A) Is delivered by a common carrier or delivery service and not
yet received by the addressee; or
- (B) Has been left to be collected for delivery by a common carrier
or delivery service.

(b) It is an offense to take mail from a residential mailbox or from the curtilage of
a dwelling without the consent of the addressee and with the intent to deprive the
addressee of the mail.

(c)

(1) A first offense of mail theft is punished as theft under § 39-14-105,
after determining value under § 39-11-106.

(2) A second or subsequent offense of mail theft is punished as theft
under § 39-14-105, after determining value under § 39-11-106. However, in no

event shall punishment for a second or subsequent offense of mail theft be less than a Class E felony.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to violations occurring on or after that date.